

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) Federal Aid Project

Proposed Sherman Reservoir Motorboat Access Improvement, Sherman County, Nebraska

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared this document in accordance with the procedures for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as it applies to the Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 777 et. seq. and 50 State 916; 16 U.S.C. Sec. 669 et. seq.).

A final Environmental Assessment entitled “Sherman Reservoir Motorboat Access Improvement” was prepared in compliance with the NEPA to assist in agency decision-making in determining whether to prepare an Environment Impact Statement. The purpose of the proposed action is to improve the boating access through the construction of breakwaters and the excavation of coves.

Two alternatives were evaluated:

No Action - No project or construction activities would take place.

Proposed Action - The proposed work will involve excavating sediment from three coves to deepen the boating channels for enhanced boating access. The excavation work will remove a total of 140,000 cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir basin. In addition, ten breakwater structures that range in size from 200 to 1,050 feet long will be constructed at four sites. The breakwaters will reduce siltation and sedimentation due to wind and wave action and help maintain safe boating access. The total cost of the project will be \$2.3 million.

The Sherman Reservoir Motorboat Access Improvement project will not result in any significant adverse effects to floodplains, wetlands, prime or unique farmland; Federally-listed species; or archaeological, cultural, or historical resources.

Consultation and Coordination

Public notices on the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment and opportunity to provide comments were published in a State-wide news release for a fifteen day review period. In addition, the draft Environmental Assessment was distributed statewide in Nebraska to congressional delegates, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations. The draft Environmental Assessment was also made available online at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/federalassistance/>. Copies of the draft Environmental Assessment were provided to the following agencies for review and comment: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service , U.S. Geological Survey, and Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Comments on the draft Environmental Assessment included: 6 letters of citizen support from the surrounding communities and seven requests for the web address to review the EA document. No opposing comments on the proposal were received.

A news release regarding the availability of the final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact will be published statewide in Nebraska. Also, a notice of availability of these documents will be provided to the agencies listed above.

Conclusion

Based on review of the Environmental Assessment and evaluation of the effects of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. I also find that all reasonable alternatives were considered in the evaluation of this project and that this project complies with the intent of Executive Order 11988 "Floodplain Management" and Executive Order 11990 "Protection of Wetlands." Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 6

Date

Reference: Final Environmental Assessment Sherman Reservoir Motorboat Access Improvement, Sherman County, Nebraska, October, 2005.